



Leading Idaho:

***The University of Idaho
Strategic Plan***

FY2016-FY2020

INTRODUCTION

The University of Idaho is the first choice for student success and statewide leadership. We are the premier land-grant research university in our state. We lead in teaching and engaged student learning in our undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. We excel at interdisciplinary research, service to businesses and communities, and in advancing diversity, citizenship, and global outreach. Through our growing residential and networked university and strong alumni connections, we develop leaders who will guide Idaho to global economic success, create a sustainable American West, and address our nation's most challenging problems.

As Idaho's land-grant institution, our students, faculty, and staff are engaged in a vast network of powerful partnerships through statewide locations, laboratories, research and extension centers, outreach programs, and a base of loyal alumni worldwide. These resources provide connections to individuals, businesses, and communities that strive to improve the quality of life of all Idaho citizens and secure the economic progress of the world.

We are committed to a student-centered, engaged learning environment. Our unique geography, intimate setting, residential campus, and dedicated faculty provide aspiring leaders with the skills and abilities to challenge themselves and learn by doing.

Our leadership position in research and creative activity presents opportunities to interact and innovate with world-class faculty. Our students gain firsthand experience addressing global challenges, and bring contemporary knowledge and experience into their careers and lives.

Students, faculty, and staff at the University of Idaho are dedicated to advancing a purposeful and just community that respects individuality and provides access and inclusion for all cultures to create a climate that is civil and respectful. Innovative, productive collaborations that foster community and build morale are encouraged.

Over the past five years, the university community has implemented a strategic plan to further the vision and mission of the university. This 2016-20 Strategic Plan fulfills the promise of a 21st century land-grant institution to lead and inspire Idaho, the nation, and the world. To achieve this, all units will develop strategic actions that advance the overall strategic direction, vision, and values of the institution.

MISSION

The University of Idaho is the state's land-grant research university. From this distinctive origin and identity comes our commitment to enhance the scientific, economic, social, legal, and cultural assets of our state, and to develop solutions for complex problems facing society. We deliver on this commitment through focused excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and engagement in a collaborative environment at our residential main campus, regional centers, extension offices, and research facilities throughout the state. Consistent with the land-grant ideal, our outreach activities serve the state at the same time they strengthen our teaching as well as scholarly and creative capacities.

Our teaching and learning includes undergraduate, graduate, professional, and continuing education offered through both resident instruction and extended delivery. Our educational programs are enriched by the knowledge, collaboration, diversity, and creativity of our faculty, students, and staff.

Our scholarly and creative activities promote human and economic development, global understanding, and progress in professional practice by expanding knowledge and its applications in the natural and applied sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, and the professions.

VISION

Our commitment to focused excellence includes developing and delivering pre-eminent statewide programs. These programs are delivered in the Morrill Act-mandated primary emphases areas in agriculture, natural resources, and engineering; and sustaining excellence in architecture, law, liberal arts, sciences, education, business and economics, and programs in medical and veterinary medical education, all of which shape the core curriculum and give meaning to the concept of a land-grant research university.

PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

Learn, create, and innovate
Preserve and transmit knowledge
Act with integrity
Treat others with respect
Celebrate excellence
Change lives
Welcome and include everyone
Take responsibility for the future

Goal 1: Teaching and Learning Goal: Enable student success in a rapidly changing world.

Context: Our graduates live, work, compete, and prosper in a constantly changing environment. Consequently, curricula, co-curricular activities, pedagogy, and assessment must be quickly adaptable as the environment changes. Learning experiences drawn from our disciplinary and interdisciplinary strengths will help students develop the ability to identify and address complex problems and opportunities.

Objective A: Build adaptable, integrative curricula and pedagogies.

Strategies:

1. Streamline policies and practices to enable creative program revision and course scheduling.
2. Implement general education requirements that emphasize integrative learning throughout the undergraduate experience.
3. Use external and internal assessments to keep teaching and learning vital.
4. Build curricula to support timely degree completion.
5. Expand opportunities for professional education.
6. Apply emerging technologies to increase access and respond to the needs of local and global learners.
7. Develop increased learning opportunities for underserved or underrepresented communities.
8. Employ active learning pedagogies to enhance student learning where appropriate.

Performance Measure: The average time to complete a Bachelor's degree.

Benchmark: Four and one-half (4.50) years (using the Complete College Idaho methodology).

Rationale: Timely degree completion, along with high graduation rates, results from and reflects efficient curricula, good advising and student centered teaching. Allowing 4.5 years gives students time to take fewer credits in some terms, take a few extra elective courses, and/or change majors.

Performance Measure: Retention rates (percent of full-time and part-time freshmen returning for a second year or full-time and part-time new transfers returning or completing their program).

Benchmark: The median of our official peer institutions, which we have most recently calculated as 83%. We have not recently computed the retention/success rate for new transfers at our peer institutions.

Rationale: Required by SBOE.

Performance Measure: Graduation rate (percent of full-time and part-time freshmen graduating in six years).

Benchmark: The median of our official peer institutions (most recently 62% for full-time, part-time peer median not yet compiled for peers).

Rationale: Required by SBOE.

Performance Measure: Dual Credit (total credits and # of students)

Benchmark: Consistent annual increases to market saturation.

Rationale: Required by SBOE.

Performance Measure: Total undergraduate degrees conferred (number of undergraduate degree completions per 100 FTE undergraduate students enrolled).

Benchmark: The median of our official peer institutions.

Rationale: Required by SBOE.

Objective B: Develop integrative learning activities that span students' entire university experience.

Strategies:

1. Increase educational experiences within the living and learning environments.
2. Engage alumni and stakeholders as partners in student mentoring.
3. Increase student participation in co-curricular activities.
4. Integrate curricular and co-curricular activities.
5. Increase opportunities for student interaction and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Performance Measure: Number and percent of students participating in Study Abroad and National Student Exchange programs.

Benchmark: Five percent of the full-time undergraduate degree-seeking student body.

Rationale: Enabling students to not only progress through their academic career but also to do so while learning in diverse settings provides them with greater perspective.

Goal 2: Scholarly and Creative Activity Goal: Promote excellence in scholarship and creative activity to enhance life today and prepare us for tomorrow.

Context: Our quality of life today and in the future depends on the merit of our scholarship and creative endeavors. Many of the most pressing issues facing society cut across disciplines and require solutions that do the same. At the University of Idaho we are committed to helping address society's pressing issues by continuing to support strong disciplinary and interdisciplinary activities that emphasize quality, innovation, critical thinking, and collaboration. We intend to improve the quality of life of all Idaho citizens and secure the economic progress of our world.

Objective A: Strengthen all scholarly and creative activities consistent with the University's strategic missions and signature areas.

Strategies:

1. Engage accomplished scholars to provide mentoring and leadership for key research and creative initiatives.
2. Increase the number of endowed faculty positions and postdoctoral, graduate, and undergraduate fellowships.
3. Support faculty, student, and staff entrepreneurial activity to develop new areas of excellence.
4. Implement university-wide mechanisms to provide attractive start-up packages for faculty and reward systems that recruit and retain world class faculty and staff.
5. Leverage the skills of non-tenure track faculty to promote research growth.
6. Increase the application of and public access to the results of scholarly and creative activities.

Performance Measure: The number of grant applications supporting or requiring interdisciplinary activities in which two or more faculty from different departments are listed as Co-Principal Investigators.

Benchmark: 20%

Rationale: Increased from 10% in FY2009 to 25% in FY2013; sustainable growth is our goal.

Performance Measure: Funding from competitive federally funded grants per full-time instruction and research faculty.

Benchmark: \$150,000

Rationale: Increased from \$128k to \$153k from FY2010 through FY2013; sustainable growth is our goal.

Objective B: Enable faculty, student, and staff engagement in interdisciplinary scholarship and creative activity.

Strategies:

1. Expand opportunities for ongoing interactions among faculty, students, and staff to identify areas of common interest.
2. Increase support for graduate and undergraduate interdisciplinary research and

- creative activity.
3. Develop clear criteria for evaluating engaged scholarship.
 4. Increase the national and international visibility of the University's contributions to interdisciplinary activities.
 5. Partner with other educational institutions, industry, not-for-profits, and public agencies to expand resources and expertise.
 6. Facilitate the submission of large, interdisciplinary proposals to obtain funding and to sustain successful projects.

Performance Measure: Percent of undergraduate degrees conferred in STEM fields.

Benchmark: Peer median (most recent value was 32%)

Rationale: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields are essential in our highly technological society; these degree recipients contribute disproportionately to the Idaho economy.

Goal 3: Outreach and Engagement Goal: Meet society's critical needs by engaging in mutually beneficial partnerships.

Context: As the state's land-grant institution, the University of Idaho is uniquely positioned to expand its impact in Idaho and beyond. We seek to achieve that end through engagement--working across disciplines; integrating teaching, research, and outreach; and partnering with constituents for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources.

Objective A: Develop processes, systems, and rewards that foster faculty, staff, and student outreach and engagement.

Strategies:

1. Increase the internal visibility of our outreach and engagement activities to facilitate interaction and develop synergies across the university.
2. Develop clear criteria for evaluating outreach and engagement.
3. Recognize and reward engagement with communities, businesses, non-profits, and agencies.
4. Develop an infrastructure and streamline administrative processes to coordinate outreach and engagement efforts.
5. Communicate best practices for development and implementation of outreach and engagement projects.

Performance Measure: Evidence of an institutional commitment to supporting faculty outreach and engagement activities in each strategic area noted above.

Benchmark: Qualitative and quantitative evidence indicating progress in each area.

Rationale: Demonstrating progress in this area requires a mixed-methods approach, which will include noting establishment of distinct organizational structures, changes in annual position descriptions, promotion and tenure policies, recognition from national agencies (e.g. Carnegie Classification for Engagement, US Presidential Higher Education Community Service Honor Role, Magrath and Kellogg Foundation Engagement Awards).

Objective B: Strengthen and expand mutually beneficial partnerships with stakeholders in Idaho and beyond.

Strategies:

1. Increase opportunities for faculty and students to connect with external constituents. Develop new partnerships with others who are addressing high priority issues.
2. Increase student participation in defining and delivering experiential learning opportunities.
3. Increase the external visibility of our outreach and engagement activities.
4. Coordinate plans to increase external funding for outreach and engagement.

Performance Measure: Percentage of students participating in service learning activities, as reported by the University of Idaho Service Learning Center and the ASUI Volunteerism Center.

Benchmark: One-third of the total student body (approximately 3200 students) will engage in community service activities.

Rationale: Over the course of the 2012-2013 academic year approximately 33% of University of Idaho students participated in 98 service-learning activities and provided more than 150,000 hours of service to more than 160 community organizations throughout Idaho.

Goal 4: Community and Culture Goal: Be a purposeful, ethical, vibrant, and open community.

Context: Our community is characterized by openness, trust, and respect. We value all members for their unique contributions, innovation, and individuality. Our community and culture must adapt to change, seek multiple perspectives, and seize opportunity. We are committed to a culture of service, internally and externally. We value a diverse community for enhanced creativity, cultural richness, and an opportunity to apply our full intellectual capacity to the challenges facing Idaho, the nation, and the world.

Objective A: Be a community committed to access and inclusion.

Strategies:

1. Recruit and retain a diverse student body.
2. Recruit and retain diverse faculty and staff.
3. Expand opportunities for cultural competency training.
4. Build extended community partnerships to enhance an environment that values diversity.

Performance Measure: Percentage of disadvantaged minority students, faculty and staff.

Benchmark: Meet or exceed peer medians (most recently 13% of students, 5% of faculty and 7% of staff).

Rationale: The diversity of our campus should be compared with our land-grant, high research peer institutions' diversity.

Objective B: Be a community committed to civility and respect.

Strategies:

1. Promote civil and respectful dialogue and debate both in and out of the classroom.
2. Increase systematic, consistent, and productive responses to behaviors that are destructive to the community.
3. Promote a sense of concern for and accountability to others.

Performance Measure: Percentages of faculty, staff and students who report positive experiences on surveys conducted periodically to assess the culture and climate. These include the every-third-year HERI/UCLA Faculty and UI Staff surveys, and the annual Graduating Senior Survey.

Benchmark: Peer medians when available, prior results if not (95% for students, 75% for faculty and 88% for staff).

Rationale: The periodic surveys listed above provide historical data suitable for trend analyses. The UI Diversity Task Force is also in the process of studying these issues and developing additional measures.

Objective C: Be a community committed to productivity, sustainability, and innovation.

Strategies:

1. Reward individuals and units that aim high, work across boundaries, and capitalize on strengths to advance the overall strategic direction, vision, and values of the institution.
2. Develop and promote activities to increase collaboration with new and unique partners.
3. Energize the community and foster commitment to university-wide endeavors by communicating our successes.
4. Create efficiencies through innovative collaboration, shared goals, and common experiences.
5. Invigorate the community by promoting attitudes of leadership and excellence.
6. Steward our financial assets, infrastructure, and human resources to optimize performance.

Performance Measure: For finances, the institution primary reserve ratio.

Benchmark: The institution primary reserve ratio, as reported by UI Business Systems and Accounting Services, should be comparable to the advisable level of reserves established by NACUBO, which was most recently 40%.

Rationale: This benchmark is based on NACUBO recommendations.

Key External Factors

State Board of Education (SBOE): Achievement of strategic goals and objectives assumes SBOE support and commitment to UI's unique role and mission.

Funding: Economic conditions will play an important role in the perceived value and effectiveness of higher education in the coming years. On-going and appropriate levels of funding from state and federal sources will be critical for the success of our strategic plan.